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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: S-09-5

On 2-23-07
By Angela Lodging
Angela Lodging

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: David C. Hovda et al.

Application No.: 10/799,491

Filing Date: March 12, 2004

For: **METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS**

Examiner: Lee S. Cohen

Art Unit: 3739

Confirmation No.: 8367

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER
37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98**

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the references that are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue there from.

These citations do not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims.

This IDS is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination and accordingly, Applicants believe that no fee is necessary however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0359 of ArthroCare Corporation in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.391.3961.

Respectfully submitted
Attorney for Applicants,



Brian E. Szymczak
Reg. No. 47,120

2/22/2007
Date

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

ARTHROCARE CORPORATION

CUSTOMER NO. **21394**

512.391.3961

512.391.3901 (fax)

PTO-1449 Information Disclosure Citation in an Application		Application No. 10/799,491		Applicant(s) David C. Hovda et al.			
		Docket Number S-09-5		Group Art Unit 3739		Filing Date March 12, 2004	
		U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
/LO/	A.	4161950	7/24/1979	Cowan et al.	606	48	8/1/1975
	B.	4449926	5/22/1984	Weiss	433	32	11/23/1981
	C.	5290273	3/1/1994	Ton	606	9	5/25/1993
	D.	5617854	4/8/1997	Munsif	600	374	6/22/1994
	E.	5626136	5/6/1997	Webster, Jr.	600	373	6/7/1995
	F.	5762629	6/9/1998	Kambin	604	164.11	5/2/1996
	G.	5766252	6/16/1998	Henry et al.	623	17.16	1/24/1995
	H.	5807306	9/15/1998	Shapland et al.	604	21	8/16/1994
	I.	5820580	10/13/1998	Edwards et al.	604	22	10/3/1996
	J.	5849009	12/15/1998	Bernaz	606	36	1/31/1997
	K.	5925042	7/20/1999	Gough et al.	606	41	11/3/1997
	L.	5941869	8/24/1999	Patterson et al.	604	508	5/16/1997
	M.	6014584	1/11/2000	Hofmann et al.	604	21	1/8/1999
	N.	6036681	3/14/2000	Hooven	604	506	9/5/1997
	O.	6045532	4/4/2000	Eggers et al.	604	114	8/7/1998
	P.	6086584	7/11/2000	Miller et al.	606	41	9/10/1998
	Q.	6245107	6/12/2001	Ferree	606	61	5/28/1999
	R.	6264650	7/24/2001	Hovda et al.	606	32	5/21/1999
	S.	6264651	7/24/2001	Underwood et al.	606	32	7/1/1999
	T.	6330478	12/11/2001	Lee et al.	607	101	9/4/1998
	U.	6402740	6/11/2002	Ellis et al.	606	28	7/20/2000
	V.	6428576	8/6/2002	Haldimann	623	17.16	4/14/2000
	W.	6464695	10/15/2002	Hovda et al.	606	32	1/19/2001
	X.	6468270	10/22/2002	Hovda et al.	606	32	9/19/2000
✓	Y.	6497704	12/24/2002	Ein-Gal	606	41	4/4/2001
EXAMINER /Lee Cohen/					DATE CONSIDERED 03/15/2007		
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.							

PTO-1449 Information Disclosure Citation in an Application				Application No. 10/799,491		Applicant(s) David C. Hovda et al.	
				Docket Number S-09-5		Group Art Unit 3739	
						Filing Date March 12, 2004	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
/LC/	A.	6540741	4/1/2003	Underwood et al.	606	32	10/4/1999
	B.	6558390	5/6/2003	Cragg	606	80	2/13/2001
	C.	6562033	5/13/2003	Shah et al.	606	41	4/9/2001
	D.	6575968	6/10/2003	Eggers et al.	606	41	5/16/2000
	E.	6604003	8/5/2003	Fredricks et al.	607	99	9/6/2001
	F.	6620155	9/16/2003	Underwood et al.	606	32	2/20/1998
	G.	6622731	9/23/2003	Daniel et al.	128	898	1/11/2002
	H.	6635087	10/21/2003	Angelucci et al.	623	17.11	8/29/2001
	I.	6645247	11/11/2003	Ferree	623	17.11	6/13/2002
	J.	6712811	3/30/2004	Underwood et al.	606	32	9/30/2002
	K.	6726684	4/27/2004	Woloszko et al.	606	32	11/8/2000
	L.	6740093	5/25/2004	Hochschuler et al.	606	94	2/27/2001
	M.	6772012	8/3/2004	Ricart et al.	607	99	5/3/2001
	N.	6827716	12/7/2004	Ryan et al.	606	41	9/30/2002
	O.	6837884	1/4/2005	Woloszko	606	32	6/18/2002
	P.	6878155	4/12/2005	Sharkey et al.	607	96	6/18/2001
	Q.	6974480	12/13/2005	Messerli et al.	623	17.11	11/13/2002
	R.	6997885	2/14/2006	Lubock et al.	600	567	7/27/2007
	S.	6997925	2/14/2006	Maguire et al.	606	41	10/21/2002
	T.	7001431	2/21/2006	Bao et al.	623	17.12	2/13/2003
	U.	2002/0082698	6/27/2002	Parenteau et al.	623	17.16	9/18/2001
	V.	2002/0120337	8/29/2002	Cauthen	623	17.16	4/30/2002
	W.	2003/0130738	7/10/2003	Hovda et al.	623	17.11	11/8/2002
	X.	2004/0116922	6/17/2004	Hovda et al.	606	41	9/5/2003
	Y.	2006/0095026	5/4/2006	Ricart et al.	606	32	9/19/2005
↓	Z.	2007/0010809	1/11/2007	Hovda et al.	606	41	8/2/2006
EXAMINER <div style="text-align: center;">/Lee Cohen/</div>					DATE CONSIDERED <div style="text-align: center;">03/15/2007</div>		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
/LC/	A.	94/26228	11/24/1994	WO	A61B	17/00	X	
	B.	95/05781	3/2/1995	WO	A61B	17/00	X	
	C.	95/05867	3/2/1995	WO	A61B	17/00	X	
	D.	96/23449	8/8/1996	WO	A61B	17/00	X	
	E.	96/41574	12/27/1996	WO	A61B	17/00	X	
	F.	96/07360	3/14/1996	WO	A61B	17/00	X	
	G.	97/00070	1/3/1997	WO	A61K	31/415	X	
	H.	97/24992	7/17/1997	WO	A61B	18/12	X	
	I.	98/00070	1/8/1998	WO	A61B	18/14	X	
	J.	98/14131	4/9/1998	WO	A61B	18/00	X	
	K.	99/03414	1/28/1999	WO	A61B	18/14	X	
	L.	01/82813	11/8/2001	WO	A61B	18/14	X	
	M.	719162 B1	11/19/1997	EP	A61N	01/05	X	
	N.	774926 B1	6/9/1999	EP	A61B	17/39	X	
	O.	515 867	12/2/1992	EP	A61B	17/36	X	
	P.	94/08524	4/28/1994	WO	A61B	17/32	X	
	Q.	96/20652	7/11/1996	WO	A61B	18/14	X	
✓	R.	98/03220	1/29/1998	WO	A61B	18/14	X	

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS			
		DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)	DATE
/LC/	S.	Buchelt, et al. "Excimer Laser Ablation of Fibrocartilage: An In Vitro and In Vivo Study", Lasers in Surgery and Medicine, Vol. 11, pgs. 271-279	1991
	T.	Costello et al., "Nd: YAG Laser Ablation of the Prostate as a Treatment for Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy", Lasers in Surgery and Medicine, Vol. 12, pages 121-124	1992
	U.	Rand et al., "Effect of Electrocautery on Fresh Human Articular Cartilage", J. Arthro. Surg., Vol. 1, pgs. 242-246	1985
	V.	PCT International Search Report for PCT/US99/03339 (Atty Docket No. S-2PC), 1 pg	Mailed 5/14/99
	W.	PCT International Search Report for PCT/US99/17821 (Atty docket no. S-4PC), 1 pg.	Mailed 10/19/99
	X.	PCT International Search Report for PCT/US00/13706 (Atty docket no. S-5PC). 1 pg.	Mailed 7/31/00
✓	Y.	PCT International Search Report for PCT/US00/28267 (Atty docket no. S-7PC), 1 pg.	Mailed 3/23/01

EXAMINER /Lee Cohen/	DATE CONSIDERED 03/15/2007
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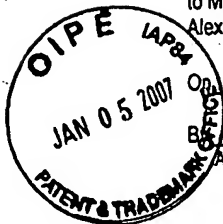
PTO-1449 Information Disclosure Citation in an Application				Application No.		Applicant(s)					
				10/799,491		David C. Hovda et al.					
				Docket Number		Group Art Unit		Filing Date			
				S-09-5		3739		March 12, 2004			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS											
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION				
							YES	NO			
/LC/	A.	00/10475	3/2/2000	WO	A61B	18/14	X				
	B.	00/62698	10/26/2000	WO	A61B	18/14	X				
	C.	99/42037	8/26/1999	WO	A61B	18/14	X				
	D.	00/07507	2/17/2000	WO	A61BM	03/02	X				
	E.	00/071043	11/30/2000	WO	A61B	18/14	X				
	F.	01/26570	4/19/2001	WO	A61B	18/14	X				
	G.	02/11635	2/14/2002	WO	A61B	18/14	X				
	H.	03/024506	3/27/2003	WO	A61B	18/14	X				
	I.	04/22155	3/18/2004	WO	A61B	18/18	X				
	J.	05/39390	5/6/2005	WO	A61B	18/18	X				
✓	K.	05/122938	12/29/2005	WO	A61B	18/18	X				
NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS											
		DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)						DATE			
/LC/	L.	PCT International Search Report for PCT/US01/15728 (Atty docket no. S-9PC), 1 pg.						Mailed 10/18/01			
	M.	PCT International Preliminary Examination Report for PCT/US01/15728 (Atty docket no. S-9-PC), 4 pgs						1/23/03			
	N.	PCT International Search Report for PCT/US02/29469 (Atty docket no. S-9-5PC), 1 pg.						Mailed 5/22/03			
	O.	PCT International Search Report for PCT/US03/27745 (Atty docket no. S-12PC), 1 pg.						Mailed 7/2/04			
	P.	PCT International Search Report for PCT/US05/20774 (Atty docket no. S-19-1PC) 1 pg.						Mailed 10/26/05			
	Q.	PCT Written Opinon of the International Searching Authority for PCT/US05/20774 (Atty docket no. S-19-1PC), 4pgs.						Mailed 10/26/05			
	R.	PCT International Search Report for PCT/US04/34949 (Atty docket no. S-19PC), 1 pg.						Mailed 3/28/06			
	S.	PCT Written Opinon of the International Searching Authority for PCT/US04/34949 (Atty docket no. S-19PC), 3pgs.						Mailed 3/28/06			
	T.	Supplementary EP Search Report for EP97932609, 2 pgs						12/19/00			
	U.	EPO Communication, Supplementary EP Search Report for EP99934236, 3 pgs						Mailed 10/9/01			
	V.	EPO Communication, Supplementary EP Search Report for EP01935554, 5 pgs						Mailed 2/27/06			
✓	W.	EPO Communication, Supplementary EP Search Report for EP03749423, 3 pgs						Mailed 3/21/06			
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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: S-9-5



15-07
Angela Loding

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: David Hovda et al.

Application No.: 10/799,491

Filed: March 12, 2004

For: **METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS**

Confirmation No.: 8367 ..

Examiner: Lee S. Cohen

Art Unit: 3739

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37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the references that are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue there from.


These citations do not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims.

01/09/2007 SSITHIB1 00000076 500359 10799491
01 FC:1806 180.00 DA

Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge \$180.00 for the IDS fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0359 of ArthroCare Corporation. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0359 of ArthroCare Corporation in order to effectuate this filing.

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Respectfully submitted
Attorney for Applicants,


Brian E. Szymczak
Reg. No. 47,120

1-5-07
Date

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:
ARTHROCARE CORPORATION
CUSTOMER NO. **21394**
512.391.3961
512.391.3901 (fax)



PTO-1449

Application No.

Applicant(s)

10/799,491

David Hovda et al.

Information Disclosure Citation in an Application

Docket Number

Group Art Unit

Filing Date

S-9-5

3739

March 12, 2004

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
/LO/	A.	2,056,377	10/06/39	Wappler	125	303	08/16/33
	B.	3,815,604	06/11/74	O'Malley et al.	128	305	6/19/72
	C.	3,828,780	08/13/74	Morrison, Jr. et al.	128	275	03/26/73
	D.	3,901,242	08/26/75	Storz	128	303	05/30/74
	E.	3,920,021	11/18/75	Hiltebrandt	128	303	5/15/74
	F.	3,939,839	02/24/76	Curtiss	128	303	6/26/74
	G.	3,970,088	07/20/76	Morrison	128	303	4/24/75
	H.	4,040,426	08/09/77	Morrison, Jr.	128	303	1/16/76
	I.	4,074,718	02/21/78	Morrison, Jr.	128	303	3/17/76
	J.	4,092,986	06/06/78	Schneiderman	128	303	6/14/76
	K.	4,116,198	09/26/78	Roos	128	303	5/14/76
	L.	4,181,131	01/01/80	Ogiu	128	303	2/23/78
	M.	4,184,492	01/22/80	Meinke et al.	128	303	5/30/78
	N.	4,202,337	05/13/80	Hren et al.	128	303	6/14/77
	O.	4,228,800	10/21/80	Degler, Jr. et al.	128	303	4/4/78
	P.	4,232,676	11/11/80	Herczog	128	303	11/16/78
	Q.	4,248,231	02/03/81	Herczog et al.	128	303	11/16/78
	R.	4,326,529	04/27/82	Doss et al.	128	303	12/5/79
	S.	4,381,007	04/26/83	Doss	128	303	4/30/81
	T.	4,476,862	10/16/84	Pao	128	303	9/30/82
	U.	4,532,924	08/06/85	Auth et al.	128	303	4/30/82
	V.	4,548,207	10/22/85	Reimels	128	303	11/17/82
	W.	4,567,890	02/04/86	Ohta et al.	128	303	8/7/84
	X.	4,590,934	05/27/86	Malis et al.	128	303	5/18/83
	Y.	4,593,691	06/10/86	Lindstrom et al.	128	303	7/13/83
✓	Z.	4,660,571	04/28/87	Hess et al.	128	784	7/18/85

EXAMINER

/Lee Cohen/

DATE CONSIDERED

03/15/2007

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		S-9-5		3739	March 12, 2004		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
/LC/	A.	4,674,499	06/23/87	Pao	128	303	1/10/85
	B.	4,682,596	07/28/87	Bales et al.	128	303	5/22/84
	C.	4,706,667	11/17/87	Roos	128	303	7/28/86
	D.	4,727,874	03/01/88	Bowers et al.	128	303	9/10/84
	E.	4,765,331	08/23/88	Petruzzi et al.	128	303	2/10/87
	F.	4,785,823	11/22/88	Eggers et al.	128	692	7/21/87
	G.	4,805,616	02/21/89	Pao	128	303	11/20/86
	H.	4,823,791	04/25/89	D'Amelio et al.	123	303	5/8/87
	I.	4,832,048	05/23/89	Cohen	128	786	10/29/87
	J.	4,920,978	05/01/90	Colvin	128	784	8/31/88
	K.	4,931,047	06/05/90	Broadwin et al.	604	22	9/30/87
	L.	4,936,301	06/26/90	Rexroth et al.	606	45	6/23/87
	M.	4,936,281	06/26/90	Stasz	128	660	4/13/89
	N.	4,943,290	07/24/90	Rexroth et al.	606	45	4/27/89
	O.	4,966,597	10/30/90	Cosman	606	50	11/4/88
	P.	4,967,765	11/06/90	Turner et al.	128	785	7/28/88
	Q.	4,976,711	12/11/90	Parins et al.	606	48	4/13/89
	R.	4,979,948	12/25/90	Geddes et al.	606	33	4/13/89
	S.	4,998,933	03/12/91	Eggers et al.	606	41	6/10/88
	T.	5,007,908	04/16/91	Rydell	606	47	9/29/89
	U.	5,009,656	04/23/91	Reimels	606	48	8/17/89
	V.	5,035,696	07/30/91	Rydell	606	47	2/2/90
	W.	5,047,026	09/10/91	Rydell	606	48	7/2/90
	X.	5,047,027	09/10/91	Rydell	606	48	4/20/90
	Y.	5,078,717	01/07/92	Parins et al.	606	48	9/10/90
✓	Z.	5,080,660	01/14/92	Buelna	606	45	5/11/90
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				March 12, 2004			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
/LC	A.	5,084,044	01/28/92	Quint	606	27	7/14/89
	B.	5,085,659	02/04/92	Rydell	606	47	11/21/90
	C.	5,088,997	02/18/92	Delahuerga et al.	606	42	3/15/90
	D.	5,098,431	03/24/92	Rydell	606	48	7/3/90
	E.	5,099,840	03/31/92	Goble	128	422	1/23/89
	F.	5,102,410	04/7/92	Dressel	606	15	10/9/90
	G.	5,108,391	04/28/92	Flachenecker et al.	606	38	5/5/89
	H.	5,112,330	05/12/92	Nishigaki et al.	606	46	5/23/89
	I.	5,122,138	06/16/92	Manwaring	606	46	11/28/90
	J.	5,125,928	06/30/92	Parins et al.	606	48	2/19/91
	K.	5,167,659	12/01/92	Ohtomo et al.	606	40	5/13/91
	L.	5,171,311	12/15/92	Rydell et al.	606	48	9/23/91
	M.	5,178,620	01/12/93	Eggers et al.	606	41	2/22/91
	N.	5,190,517	03/02/93	Zieve et al.	604	22	6/6/91
	O.	5,192,280	03/09/93	Parins	606	48	11/25/91
	P.	5,195,959	03/23/93	Smith	604	34	5/31/91
	Q.	5,197,963	03/30/93	Parins	606	46	12/2/91
	R.	5,197,466	03/30/93	Marchosky et al.	128	399	1/7/92
	S.	5,207,675	05/04/93	Canady	606	40	7/15/91
	T.	5,217,457	06/08/93	Delahuerga et al.	606	42	5/27/91
	U.	5,217,459	06/08/93	Kamerling	606	48	8/27/91
	V.	5,267,994	12/07/93	Gentelia et al.	606	15	2/10/92
	W.	5,267,997	12/07/93	Farin et al.	606	38	1/15/92
	X.	5,273,524	12/28/93	Fox et al.	604	21	10/9/91
	Y.	5,277,201	01/11/94	Stern	607	98	5/1/92
✓	Z.	5,281,216	01/25/94	Klicek	606	42	3/31/92
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				S-9-5		3739	March 12, 2004
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
/LC	A.	5,290,282	03/01/94	Casscells	606	29	6/26/92
	B.	5,300,069	04/05/94	Hunsberger et al.	606	37	8/12/92
	C.	5,306,238	04/26/94	Fleenor	606	42	9/13/91
	D.	5,312,400	05/17/94	Bales et al.	606	41	10/9/92
	E.	5,314,406	05/24/94	Arias et al.	604	21	10/9/92
	F.	5,324,254	06/28/94	Phillips	604	21	1/13/93
	G.	5,330,470	07/19/94	Hagen	606	42	7/2/92
	H.	5,334,140	08/02/94	Philips	604	35	1/12/93
	I.	5,342,357	08/30/94	Nardella	606	40	11/13/92
	J.	5,366,443	11/22/94	Eggers et al.	604	114	10/9/92
	K.	5,370,675	12/06/94	Edwards et al.	607	101	2/2/93
	L.	5,375,588	12/27/94	Yoon	128	4	8/17/92
	M.	5,380,277	01/10/95	Phillips	604	33	11/2/93
	N.	5,383,917	01/24/95	Desai et al.	607	702	7/5/91
	O.	5,383,876	01/24/95	Nardella	606	49	3/22/94
	P.	5,395,312	03/07/95	Desai	604	22	5/10/93
	Q.	5,401,272	03/28/95	Perkins	606	15	2/16/94
	R.	5,417,687	05/23/95	Nardella et al.	606	32	4/30/93
	S.	5,419,767	05/30/95	Eggers et al.	604	114	8/24/93
	T.	5,423,810	06/13/95	Goble et al.	606	40	2/25/93
	U.	5,423,882	06/13/95	Jackman et al.	607	122	2/25/93
	V.	5,436,566	07/25/95	Thompson et al.	324	713	6/1/93
	W.	5,438,302	08/01/95	Goble	331	167	7/11/94
	X.	5,441,499	08/15/95	Fritsch	606	45	07/13/94
	Y.	5,451,224	09/19/95	Goble et al.	606	48	02/25/93
✓	Z.	5,454,809	10/03/95	Janssen	606	41	04/19/94
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		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
/LC/	A.	5,496,314	3/5/96	Eggers	606	41	10/9/92
	B.	5,496,317	3/5/96	Goble et al.	606	48	5/3/94
	C.	5,496,312	03/05/96	Klicek	606	34	10/7/93
	D.	5,514,130	05/07/96	Baker	606	41	10/11/94
	E.	5,556,397	09/17/96	Long et al.	606	48	10/26/94
	F.	5,569,242	10/29/96	Lax et al.	606	42	10/29/96
	G.	5,571,100	11/5/96	Goble et al.	606	41	10/28/94
	H.	5,584,872	12/17/96	LaFontaine et al.	607	117	3/11/94
	I.	5,609,151	03/11/97	Mulier et al.	128	642	9/18/94
	J.	5,633,578	5/27/97	Eggers et al.	323	301	7/15/94
	K.	5,647,869	07/15/97	Goble et al.	606	37	6/28/95
	L.	4,043,342	08/23/97	Morrison, Jr.	128	303	2/26/76
	M.	5,662,680	09/02/97	Desai	606	210	10/28/94
	N.	5,676,693	10/14/97	LaFontaine et al.	607	116	6/14/94
	O.	5,681,282	10/28/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	4/11/95
	P.	5,683,366	11/04/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	11/22/95
	Q.	5,697,281	12/16/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	6/7/95
	R.	5,697,882	12/16/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	11/22/95
	S.	5,697,909	12/16/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	11/24/94
	T.	5,697,536	12/16/97	Eggers et al.	604	114	11/18/96
	U.	5,700,262	12/23/97	Acosta et al.	606	48	10/16/95
	V.	5,725,524	03/10/98	Mulier et al.	606	41	1/3/96
	W.	5,766,153	06/16/98	Eggers et al.	604	114	12/05/96
	X.	5,807,395	09/15/98	Mulier et al.	606	41	04/22/97
	Y.	5,810,764	09/22/98	Eggers et al.	604	23	07/18/96
✓	Z.	5,810,809	09/22/98	Rydell	606	49	01/13/97
EXAMINER /Lee Cohen/					DATE CONSIDERED 03/15/2007		
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
/LO/	A.	5,843,019	12/01/98	Eggers et al.	604	22	7/18/96
	B.	5,860,975	1/19/99	Goble et al.	606	45	12/15/95
	C.	5,871,469	02/16/99	Eggers et al.	604	114	2/5/97
	D.	5,873,855	02/23/99	Eggers et al.	604	114	11/22/96
	E.	5,885,277	03/23/99	Korth	606	35	2/27/97
	F.	5,888,198	03/30/99	Eggers et al.	604	114	12/5/96
	G.	5,891,095	03/30/99	Eggers et al.	604	114	12/5/96
	H.	5,897,553	04/27/99	Mulier	606	41	11/2/95
	I.	5,902,272	05/11/99	Eggers et al.	604	114	7/16/96
	J.	5,944,715	08/31/99	Goble et al.	606	41	11/25/96
	K.	5,954,716	09/21/99	Sharkey et al.	606	32	2/19/98
	L.	6,004,319	12/21/99	Goble et al.	606	48	8/26/96
	M.	6,013,076	01/11/00	Goble et al.	606	41	10/25/96
	N.	6,015,406	01/18/00	Goble et al.	606	41	8/21/96
	O.	6,024,733	02/15/00	Eggers et al.	604	500	11/22/95
	P.	6,027,501	02/22/00	Goble et al.	606	41	10/21/96
	Q.	6,039,734	03/21/00	Goble et al.	606	41	7/27/98
	R.	6,056,746	05/02/00	Goble et al.	606	48	3/27/98
	S.	6,063,079	05/16/00	Hovda et al.	606	41	4/2/98
	T.	6,066,134	05/23/00	Eggers et al.	606	32	10/23/98
	U.	6,068,628	05/30/00	Fanton et al.	606	41	08/20/96
	V.	6,074,386	06/13/00	Goble et al.	606	34	08/06/97
	W.	6,090,106	07/18/00	Goble et al.	606	41	03/26/98
	X.	6,093,186	07/25/00	Goble et al.	606	34	12/18/97
	Y.	6,102,046	08/15/00	Weinstein et al.	128	898	6/2/98
✓	Z.	6,109,268	08/29/00	Thapliyal et al.	128	898	12/15/97
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/LC	A.	6,117,109	09/12/00	Eggers et al.	604	114	9/28/98		
	B.	6,126,682	10/03/00	Sharkey et al.	607	96	9/15/98		
	C.	6,142,992	11/07/00	Cheng et al.	606	34	4/10/98		
	D.	6,149,620	11/21/00	Baker et al.	604	22	2/12/99		
	E.	6,159,194	12/12/00	Eggers et al.	604	500	10/2/97		
	F.	6,159,208	12/12/00	Hovda et al.	606	41	3/15/99		
	G.	6,168,593	01/02/01	Sharkey et al.	606	34	2/12/98		
	H.	6,179,836	01/30/01	Eggers et al.	606	45	10/28/98		
	I.	6,179,824	01/30/01	Eggers et al.	604	500	06/13/97		
	J.	6,183,469	02/06/01	Thapliyal et al.	606	41	01/02/98		
	K.	6,190,381	02/20/01	Olsen et al.	606	32	01/21/98		
	L.	6,203,542	03/20/01	Ellsberry et al.	606	41	04/21/99		
	M.	6,210,402	04/03/01	Olsen et al.	606	32	11/25/97		
	N.	6,224,592	05/01/01	Eggers et al.	606	32	07/27/98		
	O.	6,228,081	05/08/01	Goble	606	34	06/30/99		
	P.	6,235,020	05/22/01	Cheng et al.	606	34	04/10/98		
	Q.	6,238,391	05/29/01	Olsen et al.	606	41	06/11/99		
	R.	6,254,600	07/03/01	Willink et al.	606	41	06/11/99		
	S.	6,261,286	07/17/01	Goble et al.	606	34	10/16/98		
	T.	6,264,652	07/24/01	Eggers et al.	606	41	05/18/99		
	U.	6,277,112	08/21/01	Underwood et al.	606	32	2/20/98		
	V.	6,293,942	09/25/01	Goble et al.	606	38	05/02/96		
	W.	6,296,636	10/02/01	Cheng et al.	606	32	07/21/99		
	X.	6,296,638	10/02/01	Davison et al.	606	41	11/20/98		
	Y.	6,306,134	10/23/01	Goble et al.	606	42	10/16/98		
✓	Z.	6,312,408	11/06/01	Eggers et al.	604	114	12/5/06		
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/LC	A.	6,322,549	11/27/01	Eggers et al.	604	500	01/06/00		
	B.	6,355,032	03/12/02	Hovda et al.	606	32	02/27/98		
	C.	6,363,937	04/02/02	Hovda et al.	128	898	05/06/98		
	D.	6,379,351	04/30/02	Thapliyal et al.	606	41	02/18/00		
	E.	6,391,025	05/21/02	Weinstein et al.	606	41	03/13/98		
	F.	6,416,507	07/09/02	Eggers et al.	606	32	01/18/00		
	G.	6,416,508	07/09/02	Eggers et al.	606	32	02/15/00		
	H.	6,432,103	08/13/02	Ellsberry et al.	606	41	06/26/00		
	I.	6,468,274	10/22/02	Alleyrie et al.	606	32	10/11/00		
	J.	6,468,275	10/22/02	Wampler et al.	606	48	6/23/00		
	K.	6,482,201	11/19/02	Olsen et al.	606	41	7/27/00		
	L.	6,517,498	02/11/03	Burbank et al.	600	564	7/20/00		
	M.	6,530,922	03/11/03	Cosman	606	34	1/27/00		
	N.	6,589,237	07/08/03	Woloszko et al.	606	41	1/19/01		
	O.	6,602,248	08/05/03	Sharps et al.	606	32	9/28/00		
	P.	6,620,156	09/16/03	Garito et al.	606	50	9/20/02		
	Q.	6,632,193	10/14/03	Davison et al.	604	22	1/5/00		
	R.	6,632,220	10/14/03	Eggers et al.	606	41	11/12/99		
	S.	6,749,608	6/15/04	Garito et al.	606	45	8/5/02		
	T.	6,780,180	08/24/04	Goble et al.	606	41	3/8/00		
	U.	6,780,178	08/24/04	Palanker et al.	600	41	5/3/02		
	V.	6,802,842	10/12/04	Ellman et al.	606	45	1/2/03		
	W.	6,920,883	07/26/05	Bessette et al.	128	898	11/08/02		
	X.	6,929,640	08/16/05	Underwood et al.	606	32	02/24/00		
	Y.	6,949,096	09/27/05	Davison et al.	606	41	01/21/03		
✓	Z.	6,960,204	11/01/05	Eggers et al.	606	32	07/16/03		
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/LC	A.	6,974,453	12/13/05	Woloszko et al.	606	41	04/20/01		
	B.	6,991,631	01/31/06	Woloszko et al.	606	41	02/13/03		
	C.	7,004,941	02/28/06	Tvinnereim et al.	606	41	11/07/02		
	D.	7,070,596	07/04/06	Woloszko et al.	606	41	10/03/00		
	E.	7,090,672	08/15/06	Underwood et al.	606	41	07/02/03		
	F.	7,094,215	08/22/06	Davison et al.	604	22	03/28/03		
	G.	7,104,986	09/12/06	Hovda et al.	606	32	05/12/03		
	H.	7,131,969	11/07/06	Hovda et al.	606	45	05/01/00		
	I.	4896671	1/30/90	Cunningham	128	642	8/1/88		
	J.	4958539	9/25/90	Stasz	76	104.100	6/2/89		
	K.	4976709	12/11/90	Sand	606	999.999	6/30/89		
	L.	5137530	8/11/92	Sand	606	005	6/29/90		
	M.	5201729	4/13/93	Hertzmann	606	002	11/30/90		
	N.	5230334	7/27/93	Klopotek	128	999.999	1/22/92		
	O.	5318564	6/7/94	Eggers	606	047	5/1/92		
	P.	5403311	4/4/95	Abele	606	049	3/29/93		
	Q.	5433739	7/18/95	Sluijter	607	99	11/2/93		
	R.	5439446	8/8/95	Barry	604	096	6/30/94		
	S.	5458596	10/17/95	Lax	606	031	5/6/94		
	T.	5542945	8/6/96	Fritsch	606	41	9/12/94		
	U.	5562703	10/8/96	Desai	604	33	6/14/94		
	V.	5660836	8/26/97	Knowlton	424	400	5/5/95		
	W.	5720744	2/24/98	Eggleston et al.	606	40	6/6/95		
	X.	5846196	12/8/98	Siekmeier	600	374	12/12/96		
✓	Y.	5980504	11/9/99	Sharkey et al.	604	510	6/27/97		
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/LC/	A.	6007570	12/28/99	Sharkey et al.	607	96	6/24/97
	B.	6073051	6/6/00	Sharkey et al.	607	99	6/24/97
	C.	4582057	4/15/86	Auth et al.	606	31	11/21/83
	D.	4269174	5/26/81	Adair	128	842	8/6/79
	E.	4483338	11/20/84	Bloom et al.	606	50	6/12/81
	F.	5626576	5/6/97	Janssen	606	41	9/21/95
	G.	5785705	7/28/98	Baker	606	32	10/24/95
	H.	5823955	10/20/98	Kuck et al.	600	374	11/20/95
	I.	5916214	6/29/99	Cosio et al.	606	41	3/28/97
	J.	6096036	8/1/00	Bowe et al.	606	41	5/5/98
	K.	6122549	9/19/00	Sharkey et al.	607	99	6/24/97
	L.	6258086	7/10/01	Ashley et al.	606	41	3/19/99
	M.	6319250	11/20/01	Falwell et al.	606	41	11/23/98
	N.	6500173	12/31/02	Underwood et al.	606	32	5/18/01
	O.	6758846	7/6/04	Goble et al.	606	041	2/2/01
	P.	2002/0049438	4/25/02	Sharkey et al.	606	041	6/29/01
	Q.	6095149	8/1/00	Sharkey et al.	128	898	6/24/97
	R.	7014633	3/21/06	Cragg	604	500	5/3/01
✓	S.	6214001	4/10/01	Casscells et al.	606	41	4/24/98
	T.						
	U.						
	V.						
	W.						
	X.						
	Y.						
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/LC	A.	94/14383	12/22/92	WO	A61B	17/00	X	
	B.	98/01087	6/13/97	WO	A61B	18/14	X	
	C.	98/11944	9/17/97	WO	A61N	1/06	X	
	D.	98/17190	10/22/97	WO	A61B	17/00	X	
	E.	99/47058	3/19/99	WO	A61B	18/14	X	
	F.	57-57802	04/05/82	JP	A61B	1/00	X	
	G.	97/48345	12/24/97	WO	A61B	17/39	X	
	H.	98/27880	07/02/98	WO	A61B	17/39	X	
	I.	92/21278	12/10/92	WO	A61B	5/04	X	
	J.	94/08654	04/28/94	WO	A61M	37/00	X	
	K.	97/00647	01/09/97	WO	A61B	17/39	X	
	L.	97/00646	01/09/97	WO	A61B	17/39	X	
	M.	2 327 350	01/27/99	GB	A61B	17/39	X	
	N.	2 327 351	01/27/99	GB	A61B	17/39	X	
	O.	2 327 352	01/27/99	GB	A61B	17/39	X	
	P.	0 694 290	11/15/00	EP	A61B	18/04	X	
	Q.	0 754 437	01/22/97	EP	A61B	17/39	X	
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